TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1965

TREASURY ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS FOR COINAGE MATERIAL

The Treasury today announced signature of the first contracts for procurement of materials for the new silver half dollar, approved in the Coinage Act of 1965. A further contract for procurement of materials for the new quarter and dime has also been completed.

Production of the new half dollar, which will be the silver standard bearer of the new fractional coinage, will be started at the Denver Mint this fall. The new 50-cent piece will be a composite coin, with faces of 80 percent silver and 20 percent copper, bonded to a core of 21 percent silver and 79 percent copper.

Two contracts have been signed for the purchase of the silver-copper on copper-silver alloy for this coin. They were:

-- A contract for approximately $8 million with Engelhard Industries, Inc., of Newark, New Jersey, for production at plants in Newark and in Plainville, Massachusetts.

-- A contract for approximately $3 million with Handy and Harman, of New York City, for production in its plant at Fairfield, Connecticut.

A $3 million contract for the supply of the composite metal strip needed for the new quarter and dime has been signed with Composite Metal Products, Inc., of Eighty-four, Pennsylvania. The new 10 cent and 25 cent pieces will have faces of the same 75 percent copper, 25 percent nickel alloy from which the 5 cent piece is made, bonded to a core of pure copper. On July 27 the Treasury announced the signing of three contracts for this material, amounting to approximately $42 million.

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Production of the new quarters will begin this month at the Philadelphia Mint. The new coins will be issued late this year, or early in 1966, according to the need for coins.

When facilities for producing clad metal strip at the new Mint to be built at Philadelphia come into being the composite materials for the new coins will be produced there. Facilities for production of clad strip are to be added in the Denver Mint. Procurement of materials for the new coins will continue outside the Mint until facilities for its production become available.

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